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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01 ICAE-00
SP-02 SPRS-02 /065 W

-----105607 060021Z /67

R 051946Z FEB 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0722

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/5/88 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: CELS WITHDRAWS DISAPPEARANCE CHARGE

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 0052, (B) BUENOS AIRES 0227

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS) HAS NOW ADMITTED IT WAS MISTAKEN IN CHARGING THAT DANIEL ALEJANDRO DI BERNARDO DISAPPEARED. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT CELS CHARGED THAT DI BERNARDO DISAPPEARED ON NOVEMBER 30, 1981. IN EARLY JANUARY THE POLICE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE STATING THAT DI BERNARDO HAD BEEN WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND IN ROSARIO, A STORY WHICH DE BERNARDO CONFIRMED. CELS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CONTINUED TO DOUBT THIS STORY, MAINTAINING THAT DI BERNARDO HAD IN FACT BEEN KIDNAPPED.

3. NOW CELS HAS PUT OUT A STATEMENT ADMITTING IT WAS

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WRONG. THE EXPLANATION OF WHAT TOOK PLACE IS BIZARRE. THE WOMAN WHO DENOUNCED DI BERNARDO'S

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UNCLASSIFIED

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DISAPPEARANCE TO CELS AND TO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY WAS, IN A WORD, LYING. SHE WAS NOT HIS GRAND-MOTHER, AS SHE CLAIMED, BUT A FRIEND OF HIS GRANDMOTHER, ACCORDING TO CELS. HER PURPOSE WAS TO HELP DI BERNARDO OBTAIN A VISA TO SWEDEN AS A REFUGEE, SOMETHING HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR FOR OVER A YEAR. THE FALSE GRANDMOTHER ALSO FABRICATED OTHER FALSEHOODS AS PART OF HER DECEPTION: DI BERNARDO'S FATHER IS NOT A DISAPPEARED AS SHE CLAIMED; HIS MOTHER IS NOT IN A MENTAL HOME AS SHE CLAIMED. INTERESTINGLY, THE PHONY GRANDMOTHER DOES HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS IN SWEDEN, WHERE THEY ARE ACCOMPANYING THEIR ARGENTINE HUSBANDS, BOTH POLITICAL REFUGEES.

4. CELS TRIES, SOMEWHAT CLUMSILY, TO PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS FALSE ALARM ON THE MILITARY, ARGUING THAT IT FELL INTO A DECEPTION BECAUSE THE ARMED FORCES PERPETRATED REAL DISAPPEARANCES WHICH "THEY NEITHER CLARIFY NOR INTERRUPT."

5. COMMENT: CELS HAS BEEN CAUGHT OUT. NO DOUBT AS ITS STATEMENT STATES IT ACTED IN GOOD FAITH. BUT IT MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN A FIELD WHERE CREDIBILITY IS ESSENTIAL.
SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]
NNN

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